# CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY





# THE SITUATION IN VIETNAM

Information as of 1600 26 August 1966

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ARMY review(s) completed.

State Dept. review completed



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#### HIGHLIGHTS

The pace of military activity in South Vietnam continues at a high level with several engagements reported between large Communist and allied units. Premier Ky has tentatively accepted an invitation from a US press association to address a conference in Los Angeles in November.

- I. The Military Situation in South Vietnam: Heavy fighting has been reported between US Army troops and Communist forces in an area about 30 miles north of Saigon (Para. 1). A Communist force attacked an American camp near the DMZ for 90 minutes yesterday, killing four Americans while sustaining losses of 40 killed and 40 weapons captured (Para. 2). A multibattalion South Vietnamese Army force suffered heavy losses as the result of a Viet Cong attack in southern Kien Giang Province (Para. 3). Six Viet Cong terrorists killed three persons in an attack on a Saigon police station (Para. 5). Weekly review of South Vietnam battle statistics (Para. 9).
- Premier Ky has tentatively accepted an invitation to address a press association meeting in Los Angeles in mid-November (Para. 1). A civilian member of the ruling Directorate believes that Buddhist Institute officials may be backing away from their call for an election boycott, although there is no supporting evidence available (Para. 2).

III.	North V	Vietnamese	Military	Developments:	
		North	n Vietnam	has developed	
a new br	idge bui			ing wire ropes	
to suppo:	rt remov	vable deck	sections	(Paras. 5-6).	

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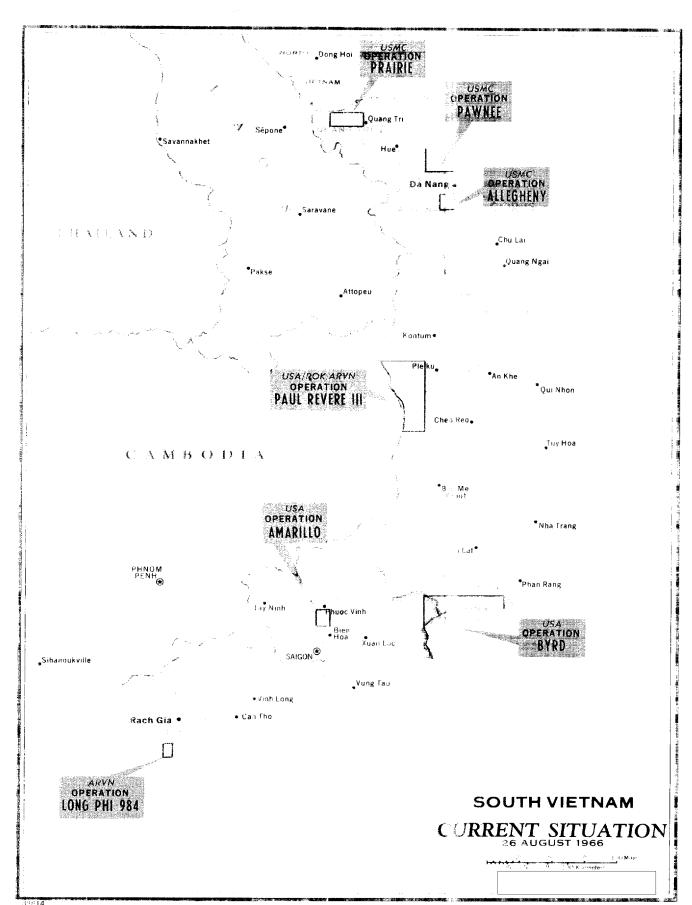
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IV. Other Communist Military Developments: There is nothing of significance to report.  V. Communist Political Developments: The recent visit to the USSR by the North Vietnamese premier has been confirmed by the North Vietnamese ambassador to Moscow.  the North Vietnamese will receive more military aid (Paras. 1-2).	25X1
ANNEX:  South Vietnam Battle Statistics 14-20 Aug Total Personnel Losses Cumulative US Combat Casualties Total Friendly Forces Personnel Losses	
South Vietnam Battle Statistics 14-20 Aug Viet Cong Incidents Viet Cong Attacks Weapons LossesGVN/VC	

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### I. THE MILITARY SITUATION IN SOUTH VIETNAM

- 1. One battalion of the US 1st Infantry Division, participating in road security Operation AMARILLO in an area of Binh Duong Province about 30 miles north of Saigon, reported heavy contact with Communist troops for approximately 14 hours yesterday. Four additional US Army battalions have been committed to the operation and sporadic contact is continuing. The battlefield is in an area of rubber plantations, saw grass, low jungle, and rice paddies. Initial reports of American casualties indicate at least eight killed and 135 wounded.

  losses reportedly may total more than 50 killed.
- 2. Elements of two US Marine battalions participating in search-and-destroy Operation PRAIRIE in northernmost Quang Tri Province near the DMZ were attacked yesterday by a Communist force of undetermined size. The enemy charged an American camp with grenades, satchel charges, and small-arms fire following a barrage by mortars. During the 90-minute assault, four Americans were killed and 24 wounded. Communist losses included 40 killed and 40 weapons captured.
- 3. Operation LONG PHI 984, a search-and-destroy operation conducted by six South Vietnamese Army battalions, began on 24 August in the southern province of Kien Giang, about 20 miles southwest of the provincial capital of Rach Gia. Heavy contact was reported yesterday with a Viet Cong force of undetermined size for over eight hours. Twenty-four South Vietnamese were reported killed and 61 wounded; enemy losses were reported as one killed. A total of 35 tactical air strikes have been flown in support of this operation.
- 4. Operation ALLEGHENY, which began in Quang Nam Province on 20 August, has been expanded from a two-company operation and now includes a full battalion of US Marines. Elements of the battalion destroyed numerous enemy huts, caves, and tunnel

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systems on 24 August. Cumulative American casualties to date are six killed and 57 wounded. Communist losses reportedly rose to nearly 100 as US Marines discovered more enemy bodies in the area of a battle which took place on 22 August.

- 5. Six Viet Cong terrorists disguised as South Vietnamese soldiers killed three South Vietnamese policemen and wounded six others in an attack on a police station on the outskirts of Saigon today. All of the guerrillas apparently escaped. There were no American casualties reported.
- 6. One battalion of the 4th Marine Regiment began search-and-destroy Operation PAWNEE in Thua Thien Province today about 20 miles northwest of Da Nang. The 810th North Vietnamese Army Battalion —with a strength of 300 men—is reported to be in the area of operation. No contact with enemy forces has been reported.
- 7. One battalion of the US 1st Cavalry Division began Operation BYRD in a large area-centered about 110 miles east of Saigon-which includes parts of Binh Tuy, Binh Thuan, and Lam Dong provinces. Although there are no Communist units confirmed in the area, the presence of the 602nd Viet Cong Battalion-listed in MACV's O/B as a probable unit with a strength of 250 men-is suspected. No contact with enemy forces has been reported
- 8. The large, multibattalion US South Korean South Vietnamese border surveillance Operation PAUL REVERE II, conducted since 31 July in Pleiku Province, ended on 26 August. PAUL REVERE III was immediately initiated with no change in mission or area of operation. Final figures from Phase II show allied casualties of 94 killed and 377 wounded. Communist losses include 809 killed and 104 captured. A total of 609 tactical air strikes supported this phase of the operation.

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#### Weekly Review of South Vietnam Battle Statistics

9. The week of 14-20 August compared with the week of 7-13 August:

### I. Viet Cong Incidents

Time <u>Period</u>	At- tacks	Regimental size	Battalion size	Company size	Harass- ment	Ter- rorism
7-13 Aug	9	0	0	2	351	9
14-20 Aug	18	0	2	1	403	14

Time <u>Period</u>	Sabotage	Propaganda	Anti- Aircraft	Total <u>Incidents</u>
7-13 Aug	31	20	6	426
14-20 Aug	28	18	75	556

#### II. Casualties

	VC 7-13 Aug	/NVA 14-20 Aug	7-13 Aug	VN 14-20 Aug
Killed Wounded Missing/Captured	1,436  284	1,827  247	128 333 28	216 414 
TOTALS	1,720	2,074	489	663
	7-13 Aug	US 14-20 Aug	FREE 7-13 Aug	WORLD 14-20 Aug
	7-13 Aug	14-20 Aug	7-13 Aug	14-20 Aug
Killed Wounded Missing/Captured	101 593 <u>5</u>	91 425 <u>8</u>	14 48 0	23 63 <u>0</u>
TOTALS	699	524	62	86

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III. Weapons Captured

	VC/NVA		GVN		
	7-13 Aug	14-20 Aug	7-13 Aug	14-20 Aug	
Individual Crew-served	317 36	Not Reported	91 . 3	211 4	
TOTALS	353		94	215	

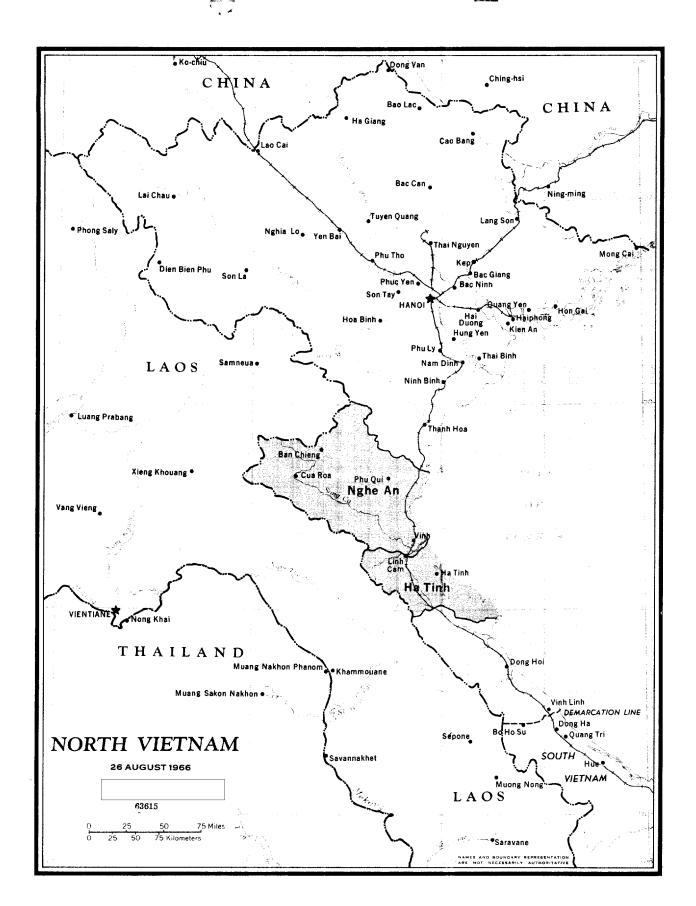
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#### II. POLITICAL DEVELOPMENTS IN SOUTH VIETNAM

- l. Premier Ky has tentatively accepted an invitation by the Associated Press Managing Editors Association to address their meeting in Los Angeles on 16 November. Confirmation of the acceptance, however, will be deferred until early November. In a conversation with a US Embassy officer, Ky said that the visit would be a useful way of supplying such "opinion makers" with factual views on the situation from the Vietnamese standpoint, adding that he would like to bring a number of people with him to talk about village life, public services, and similar matters.
- 2. According to Tran Van An, a civilian member of the ruling Directorate and former chairman of the election law drafting council, Buddhist Institute leaders may be backing away from their call for an election boycott. There is as yet no supporting evidence for An's views, and the US Embassy doubts the accuracy of An's source. Any basic change in the Institute's position should be readily discernible since it would have to be made public to be fully effective.
- 3. Tran Van An also estimated a turnout of between 50 and 60 percent of registered voters on election day, noting that local officials in many areas would undoubtedly use various kinds of pressure to get out the vote.

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#### Wire Rope Bridges in North Vietnam

- The North Vietnamese have developed a bridgebuilding technique that uses wire rope for support of deck sections which are removed in daylight hours when air strikes occur. Twenty-four such bridges in various stages of construction have been observed since early June; 20 on highway stream crossings and four on the rail line south of Vinh. are used to aid in shuttling goods between operable sections of the railroad. Hanoi presumably has even more cable-supported bridges in existence and probably is planning to expand the use of this bridging method to reduce vulnerability to interdiction of replacements for conventional bridges destroyed in bombing attacks. The cable bridge probably can be rendered unusable only if the cable anchorages, buried on the river banks, are destroyed.
- 6. An analysis of photographs of these bridges indicates that this method is being used on spans up to 200 feet, and it is estimated that cables from one to three inches in diameter are used. North Vietnam has no capability for producing such wire rope and is dependent on imports. Since May of this year over 200,000 feet of cable which could have been used to construct these bridges has been purchased from two Japanese firms, apparently North Vietnam's chief sources of supply.

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## IV. OTHER COMMUNIST MILITARY DEVELOPMENTS

1. There is nothing of significance to report.

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V. COMMUNIST POLITICAL DEVELOPMENTS
1. North Vietnamese Premier Pham Van Dong's reported trip to the Soviet Union was confirmed by the North Vietnamese ambassador to Moscow, according to the US Embassy. The DRV diplomat told the French ambassador that the AFP story, which first leaked the news of the visit to the Western world, was correct.
2. The US Embassy in Moscow also reports that another sourcea Soviet journalist who has occasionally provided accurate information in the past-claimed that the Soviets would give Hanoi more "hardware" but played down the significance of this aid by asserting that no "real stuff," which could cause a US-Soviet confrontation, would be provided. Undoubtedly, however, the North Vietnamese - Soviet discussions went beyond just additional military aid for Vietnam. There are many subjects in the political area which would have been on the agenda for the talks.
3. The US Embassy's source also stated that the North Vietnamese delegation left Moscow around 17 August. If this is true, the delegations spent about a week in the Soviet Union.
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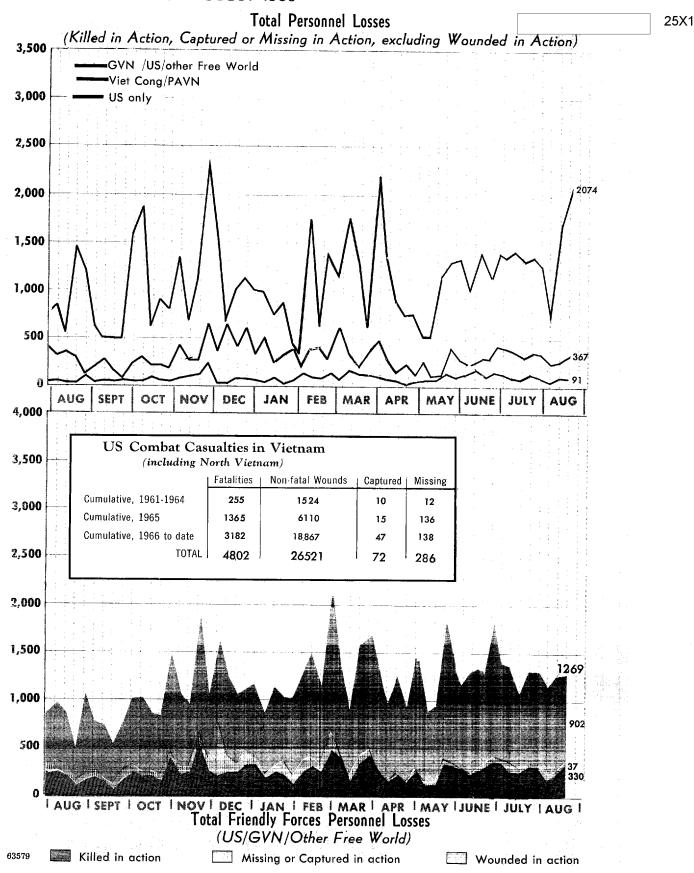
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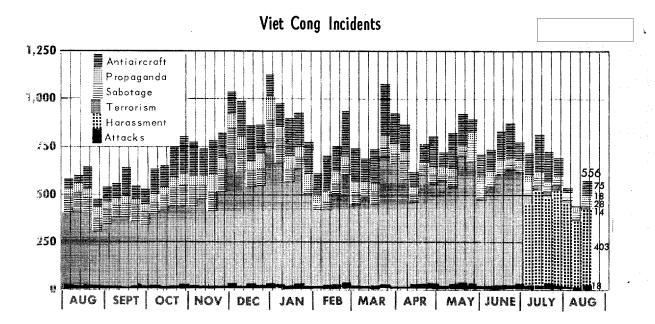
# SOUTH VIETNAM BATTLE STATISTICS

WEEKLY REPORT 14-20 AUGUST 1966



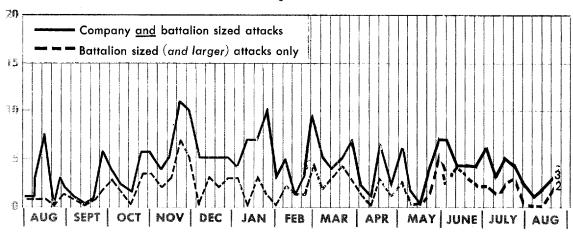
## SOUTH VIETNAM BATTLE STATISTICS

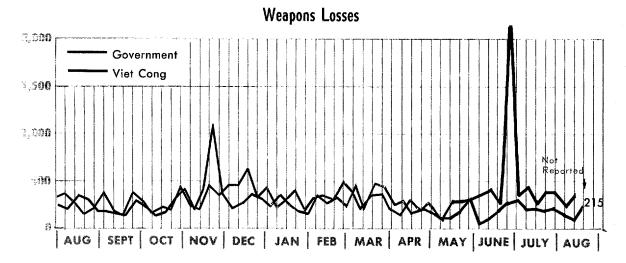
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## Viet Cong Attacks





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